

412(2)



JOINT DISTRICTS

of the

BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS

and the

RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the year

1965



J. T. MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H



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I S L E O F S H E P P E Y
(Medical Officer of Health)
JOINT COMMITTEE

1965

Chairman:
A. G. Coats, J.P.

Members:

Queenborough Town Council:
Ald. G. H. Lerpiniere
J. W. N. Bromley

Sheerness Urban District Council:
B. J. Buckwell
A. G. Coats, J.P.
A. H. R. Copland
Mrs. B. Realfe
D. A. Jennings

Sheppey Rural District Council:
N. W. Ford
A. W. Stone

Clerk of the Committee:
J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health:
J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Public Health Department Staff:
Mr. F. J. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk
Miss M. J. Dawe (until October)
Miss C. Hewitt (from October)

Telephone:
Sheerness 2395

Public Health Department
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith reports on the health of the three constituent authorities of the Isle of Sheppey for the year 1965.

From the Registrar-General's estimates the population of the whole Island rose by 530 to 28,150. Queenborough remained the same, Sheerness was judged to have fallen by 60 and the Rural District increased by 590. The natural increase, that is births less deaths was 201.

All three districts have birth rates higher than that for England & Wales and the estimated corrected rate for the Island is 22.6 as compared with the national rate 18.0. Males outnumbered females but not by such a margin as the previous year, 281 being males and 267 females.

Illegitimate births were 7.8% of the total and this is lower than the percentages for the three previous years.

The estimated corrected death rate for the Island is 11.8, slightly higher than the rate for England & Wales, 11.5. All three districts have higher rates than in 1964. There were 347 deaths, 196 males and 151 females and the average age at death was

66.3 for the males
68.1 for the females
and 67.4 for all deaths

Excluding 19 who had not attained the age of 21 years, the average age at death of adults was

70.1 for males
71.5 for females
and 70.7 for all deaths

299 (86%) of all deaths fell into the three main groups -

81 (23%) - Malignant new growths (68 (21%) in 1964)
171 (49%) - Heart disease and associated conditions
(166 (51%) in 1964)
57 (14%) - Respiratory conditions (43 (13%) in 1964)

Deaths of Island residents due to motor vehicle accidents increased from 2 to 4 whilst other accidents caused 4 deaths as compared with 6 in 1964.

There were only 7 deaths of infants under the age of one year and this is the lowest figure ever recorded for the Island except for the year 1955 when with a total of 104 fewer births there were only 5 deaths. The England & Wales infant mortality rate set a new low record again - 19.0 per 1,000 live births and the Island rate was only 12.8 and even the average rate over the past 5 years is as low as 19.2.

There were 9 stillbirths giving a rate of 15.2 per 1,000 live and stillbirths (20 and 37.6 in 1964) as compared with the England & Wales rate of 15.7. There was also a big reduction in the perinatal rate, that is stillbirths plus infants dying during the first week of life, the rate being 52.6 in 1964 and 21.6 in 1965. The national rate was 26.9.

Details of all these statistics are to be found in the tables I. II and III and Table IV gives figures of lung cancer deaths.

The incidence of infectious disease in the three districts is shown in Table V.

There was little infectious disease during 1965 and the majority of notified cases were Measles, 683 in all, which occurred during the first eight months and mainly from January to April. Queenborough was exempt from this as their epidemic started at the end of November 1964 and was spent before the beginning of the year.

There were 21 cases of Whooping Cough and it is noticeable that even with small numbers occurring there are often two or more in one family suffering from this disease.

There were only 9 cases of Scarlet Fever and these were of the current mild type.

Three uncommon cases were one of Meningococcal Meningitis, one of Paratyphoid B and one of Poliomyelitis. The first was a boy of 9 months whose death in hospital rapidly followed the onset of the disease. Paratyphoid has not occurred on the Island since the war years and as in this instance the patient lived mainly in London, all contacts were negative and no food was suspect, it was not possible to pinpoint the origin of the disease. The poliomyelitis was non-paralytic and occurred in a girl of 9 years who had been vaccinated. The virus was not isolated. She made a complete and fairly quick recovery.

There were fewer than usual new cases of Tuberculosis, 3 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary, and only 1 death of a pulmonary case.

There was no Typhoid and no Food Poisoning but about 30 residents were contacts with typhoid whilst on holiday. They were however all proved to be free from infection on their return home.

Pages 10, 11 and 12 give Tuberculosis statistics, Mass X-ray and Chest Clinic attendances and also on page 12 are details of venereal disease cases attending the Special Clinics for the first time. Pages 13, 14 and 15 show figures supplied by the School Medical Officer relating to medical inspections and treatment.

The ban by the Kent River Board on increased sewage being pumped through the outfalls in the Rural District remained in force with the consequence that it was impossible for planning permission to be granted for new buildings but with the formation of a Joint Sewerage Committee it appears hopeful that the Island's sewage disposal problems will soon be alleviated.

I am indebted to the Medway Water Board for the pumping figures that are mentioned in this report. The average daily consumption of water was -

Trade (metered)	259,474 gallons
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Domestic (unmetered)	1,302,739 gallons
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This domestic consumption is equivalent to 46 gallons per head per day or 40 gallons if an allowance of about 12,000 increase in the population is made for four months of the year.

It is regretted that the County Council decided to take no further action to secure the fluoridation of public water supplies in the County despite a Ministry circular issued in August affirming that "Fluoridation is now an established and well proved public health measure", an opinion also held unreservedly by the World Health Organisation Expert Committee on Water Fluoridation, the General Dental Council, the British Dental Association, the British Medical Association, the Society of Medical Officers of Health, the County Councils Association, the Association of Municipal Corporations and the Royal Society of Health.

I should like to thank all my Public Health Inspectors and my clerical staff for the smooth running of the department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I shows the estimated population for the past five years, the numbers of births and deaths and corrected rates for the three districts and the Island as a whole and also the birth and death rates for England & Wales. The corrected rates for the Isle of Sheppey are estimated:-

TABLE I

	Year	Estimated population	Total live Births	Illegitimate and rate per cent	Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Total Deaths	Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of population
Queentorough M.B.	1961	3,020	66	5 or 7.6%	22.2	34	12.6
	1962	3,080	74	4 or 5.4%	24.5	35	12.7
	1963	3,100	70	5 or 7.1%	24.6	38	13.5
	1964	3,100	67	6 or 9.0%	23.6	34	12.1
	1965	3,100	56	2 or 3.6%	19.7	35	12.6
Sheerness U.D.	1961	14,030	251	12 or 4.8%	17.0	205	13.7
	1962	13,620	278	28 or 10.1%	20.8	183	11.0
	1963	13,720	275	29 or 10.5%	22.6	202	13.2
	1964	13,770	253	24 or 9.5%	20.8	180	11.8
	1965	13,710	258	25 or 9.7%	21.3	186	12.1
Sheppey R.D.	1961	9,790	156	12 or 7.2%	19.2	121	12.0
	1962	10,590	176	16 or 9.1%	17.6	128	12.7
	1963	10,840	189	21 or 11.1%	22.1	150	12.9
	1964	10,750	102	14 or 7.3%	22.7	112	9.7
	1965	11,340	234	16 or 6.8%	25.2	126	11.1
Isle of Sheppey	1961	26,840	483	29 or 6.0%	18.4	360	13.0
	1962	27,290	528	48 or 9.1%	19.9	346	11.9
	1963	27,660	534	55 or 10.3%	22.3	390	13.1
	1964	27,620	512	44 or 8.6%	21.9	326	11.0
	1965	28,150	548	43 or 7.8%	22.6	347	11.8
England & Wales	1961				17.4		12.0
	1962				18.0		11.9
	1963				18.2		12.2
	1964				18.4		11.3
	1965				18.0		11.5

The following table shows figures and rates of infant mortality - deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births; and peri-natal mortality - deaths of infants under 1 week plus still births per 1,000 live and still births:-

TABLE II

	Year	No. of Births	Infant Deaths under 1 year		Deaths under 1 week	Still births	Perinatal Mortality Rate
			Total	Rate			
Queenborough M.B.	1961	66	2	30.3)	0	0	0.0)
	1962	74	1	13.5)	1	0	13.5)
	1963	70	3	42.9)	2	1	42.2)
	1964	67	0	0.0)	0	3	42.9)
	1965	56	0	0.0)	0	2	34.5)
Sheerness U.D.	1961	251	5	19.9)	2	4	23.5)
	1962	278	3	10.8)	0	7	24.6)
	1963	275	8	29.1)	4	9	45.7)
	1964	253	4	15.8)	4	9	49.6)
	1965	258	2	7.8)	0	3	11.5)
Sheppey R.D.	1961	166	2	12.0)	1	3	23.7)
	1962	176	7	39.8)	5	3	44.7)
	1963	189	3	15.8)	2	4	31.1)
	1964	192	5	26.0)	4	8	60.0)
	1965	234	5	21.4)	3	4	29.4)
Isle of Sheppey	1961	483	9	18.6)	3	7	20.4)
	1962	528	11	20.8)	6	10	29.7)
	1963	534	14	26.2)	8	14	40.1)
	1964	512	9	17.6)	8	20	52.6)
	1965	548	7	12.8)	3	9	21.6)
England & Wales	1961			21.6			32.2
	1962			21.6			30.8
	1963			21.1			29.3
	1964			19.9			28.2
	1965			19.0			26.9

Table III below shows the birth and mortality rates for 10 year periods since 1901 and for the 5 year period 1961 - 1965:-

TABLE III

	Period	Crude Birth Rate	Illegitimate % of live Births	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
Queenborough M.B.	1901-1910	31.8	NK	12.5	79.6
	1911-1920	26.6	2.7	9.8	86.8
	1921-1930	18.0	2.6	8.5	78.7
	1931-1940	17.3	4.2	9.6	48.7
	1941-1950	22.3	5.3	10.5	37.8
	1951-1960	17.1	4.9	10.6	18.3
	1961-1965	21.6	6.6	11.4	18.0
Sheerness U.D.	1901-1910	23.0	NK	10.7	115.5
	1911-1920	24.5	2.1	13.3	90.2
	1921-1930	18.4	2.5	11.1	60.2
	1931-1940	13.8	4.1	11.7	49.9
	1941-1950	20.0	6.7	13.0	32.2
	1951-1960	16.8	6.3	11.6	26.7
	1961-1965	19.1	8.9	13.9	16.7
Sheppey R.D.	1925-1930	15.6	3.7	9.1	46.8
	1931-1940	15.7	3.4	10.3	32.0
	1941-1950	22.2	6.7	11.0	34.8
	1951-1960	14.9	6.1	11.6	24.3
	1961-1965	17.9	8.2	11.9	23.0
Isle of Sheppey	1901-1910	23.8	NK	10.9	111.2
	1911-1920	24.8	2.2	12.7	89.6
	1921-1930	17.9	2.7	10.4	61.0
	1931-1940	14.7	3.9	11.1	44.5
	1941-1950	21.2	6.5	12.0	33.7
	1951-1960	16.2	6.1	11.5	25.0
	1961-1965	18.9	8.4	12.9	19.2

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

The following table shows the deaths from the above during the past fourteen years with age and sex distribution.

There were the same number of deaths from lung cancer in 1965 as in 1964.

The average age at death of adults during the year was

		Males	Females	Total
From all causes	...	70.1	71.5	70.7
From lung cancer	...	63.0	68.2	64.0

1 in 12 of all male deaths was due to this cause and 1 in 29 of females. Although local figures are small, there does appear to be a slight increase in the last few years of the proportion of females dying from this cause.

TABLE IV

Year	30-40 M F	40-50 M F	50-60 M F	60-70 M F	70-80 M F	Over 80 M F	Total M F
1951	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	3 -
1952	1 -	2 -	3 -	2 -	2 1	- -	10 1
1953	- -	1 1	5 -	4 1	2 -	1 -	13 2
1954	- -	1 -	1 -	8 2	2 -	- -	12 2
1955	- -	1 -	4 -	8 1	7 -	- -	20 1
1956	- -	- -	4 1	3 2	5 -	- -	12 3
1957	- -	2 -	1 -	6 1	2 1	- -	11 2
1958	- -	- -	2 1	2 -	3 -	- -	7 1
1959	- -	1 -	4 -	7 1	7 -	- -	19 1
1960	- -	3 -	5 1	4 -	7 1	2 -	21 2
1961	- -	1 -	2 -	7 -	5 1	2 -	17 1
1962	- -	- 1	2 1	6 -	6 1	- -	14 3
1963	- -	- -	5 2	6 -	4 1	- -	15 3
1964	1 -	- -	5 1	8 1	3 -	2 -	19 2
1965	- -	1 -	5 1	6 2	4 1	- 1	16 5
Totals	2 -	13 2	49 8	78 11	60 7	7 1	209 29

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table V shows the incidence of infectious disease on the Island during the past five years:-

TABLE V

	Year	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Para.	Ac. Poliomyelitis Non-Para.	Dysentery	Pul. Tuberculosis	Non-Pul. Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Typhoid, Paratyphoid*
Queenborough M.B.	1961	4	-	-	165	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1962	4	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
	1963	6	-	-	12	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
	1964	9	3	-	125	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	1965	3	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheerness U.D.	1961	5	16	-	677	2	3	-	-	2	3	-	12	-
	1962	12	2	-	4	13	1	-	-	5	2	1	-	1
	1963	35	10	-	251	8	1	-	-	1	3	-	4	-
	1964	5	28	-	50	9	3	-	-	-	5	1	-	-
	1965	3	10	-	347	7	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1*
Sheppey R.D.	1961	6	36	-	401	3	4	-	-	-	3	-	1	-
	1962	2	1	-	8	8	1	-	-	24	2	1	-	-
	1963	21	1	-	205	15	3	-	-	-	3	3	1	-
	1964	6	14	-	65	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-
	1965	3	11	-	326	5	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Isle of Sheppey	1961	15	52	-	1243	8	7	-	-	2	6	-	13	-
	1962	18	3	-	18	22	2	-	-	31	6	2	-	1
	1963	62	11	-	468	25	5	-	-	1	8	3	5	-
	1964	20	45	-	240	14	3	-	-	-	8	2	2	-
	1965	9	21	-	683	12	1	-	1	-	3	1	-	1*

TUBERCULOSIS

(a) Table VI shows the case rates and death rates of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 5-year periods since 1926 and for the 5-year period 1961-1965:-

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Case Rate	Death Rate	Case Rate	Death Rate
Queenborough M.B.				
1926-1930	1.40	0.89	0.25	0.00
1931-1935	1.13	0.66	0.06	0.00
1936-1940	0.61	0.41	0.06	0.00
1941-1945	0.96	0.88	0.07	0.14
1946-1950	1.07	0.47	0.06	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.12	0.06	0.06
1956-1960	0.18	0.06	0.00	0.00
1961-1965	0.32	0.13	0.06	0.06
Sheerness U.D.				
1926-1930	1.12	0.80	0.28	0.04
1931-1935	0.83	0.61	0.24	0.12
1936-1940	0.65	0.43	0.18	0.05
1941-1945	0.55	0.49	0.09	0.04
1946-1950	0.93	0.41	0.10	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.19	0.06	0.05
1956-1960	0.74	0.03	0.01	0.00
1961-1965	0.23	0.13	0.07	0.03
Sheppey R.D.				
1926-1930	1.37	0.66	0.44	0.11
1931-1935	0.88	0.75	0.36	0.09
1936-1940	0.29	0.31	0.12	0.02
1941-1945	0.61	0.42	0.19	0.05
1946-1950	0.94	0.32	0.20	0.07
1951-1955	0.97	0.21	0.17	0.02
1956-1960	0.62	0.04	0.02	0.00
1961-1965	0.21	0.02	0.09	0.04
Isle of Sheppey				
1926-1930	1.22	0.80	0.31	0.05
1931-1935	0.88	0.65	0.26	0.10
1936-1940	0.54	0.40	0.15	0.03
1941-1945	0.62	0.51	0.12	0.06
1946-1950	0.95	0.39	0.13	0.02
1951-1955	0.78	0.19	0.10	0.04
1956-1960	0.64	0.03	0.02	0.00
1961-1965	0.23	0.09	0.08	0.04

(b) Mass Radiography Survey

A Mass Radiography Survey was carried out in November and December and I am indebted to Dr. G. I. Rees-Jones, the Medical Director of the Service, for the following details of attendances:-

	Miniature Films taken			Change from 1963 Survey
	Males	Females	Total	
General Public -				
Queenborough	176	213	389	-160
Sheerness	571	791	1,362	-1,099
Sheppey Rural -				
Sheerness East	174	252	426	-87
Minster	152	213	365	-219
Leysdown	8	8	16	-78
Eastchurch	55	85	140	-9
Industry -				
Queenborough	632	282	914	-78
Sheerness	369	193	562	+99
Schools -				
Pupils	133	51	184	
Staff	20	38	58	-117
Totals	2,290	2,126	4,416	-1,748

(c) I am indebted to Dr. Owen Clarke the Chest Physician, for the following figures relating to the Sheppey Chest Clinic of cases of tuberculosis, including those formally notified and those under observation because of the possibility of tuberculosis:-

Number under treatment at end of year -

				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Men	...	...	...	180	4
Women	...	...	...	92	4
Children under 15	...	...	...	8	3
Totals	...	...	...	280	11

Number of new patients during the year -

				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Men	...	...	...	8	1
Women	...	...	...	5	0
Children under 15	...	...	...	1	0
Totals	...	...	...	14	1

VENEREAL DISEASE

I am indebted to Dr. C. D. Routh, Director of the Special Clinics held by the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the following figures relating to patients attending at the Rochester and Sheppey Clinics from the Isle of Sheppey during 1965:

New patients:-

				Males	Females	Totals
Syphilis	...	...	...	1 (2)	- (-)	1 (2)
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	6 (12)	2 (4)	8 (16)
Others	...	...	...	25 (23)	14 (19)	39 (42)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1964)

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

I am indebted to the School Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the medical inspection of school children in the area of the North East Kent Divisional Executive which comprises the Boroughs of Faversham and Queenborough, the Urban Districts of Sheerness and Sittingbourne & Milton, and the Rural Districts of Sheppey and Swale:-

1. Routine Medical Inspections:-

Number of pupils inspected	...	...	3,150	(4,926)
Physical condition satisfactory	...	...	3,150	(4,923)
Physical condition unsatisfactory	...	...	0	(3)

2. Number of Special Inspections ... 181 (314)

Number of Re-Inspections	1,979	(2,018)
--------------------------	-----	-----	-------	---------

3. Number found to require treatment ... 798 (913)

4. Infestation with Vermin:-

(a) Total number of examinations of pupils in schools by the school nurse or other authorised persons	13,298	(9,455)
---	-----	-----	--------	---------

(b) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	170	(78)
--	-----	-----	-----	------

(c) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54) (2), Education Act, 1944	0	(2)
--	-----	-----	---	-----

(Figures in brackets relate to 1964)

5. TREATMENT OF PUPILS

(i) Minor Ailments (Excluding Uncleanliness)

No. of cases
treated

(a) SKIN

Ringworm - (i) Scalp	...	...	-	(-)
(ii) Body	...	...	-	(-)
Scabies	...	...	-	(-)
Impetigo	...	...	-	(-)
Other skin diseases	...	...	3	(-)

(b) OTHER

Eye defects	...	...	...	...	8	(1)
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to Hospital)						
Ear defects	...	...	...	...	39	(13)
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	28	(14)
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, etc.,)						

(ii) Defective Vision and Squint (Excluding Eye diseases treated as Minor Ailments)

No. of cases
treated

(a) Errors of Refraction (including squint)	...	...	...	...	1,017	(1,096)
(b) Other defects or diseases of the eyes (excluding those recorded in (i))	...	...	...	...	2	(-)
(c) Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	...	...	...	...	505	(451)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1964)

6. DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers	...	...	...	...	3,084	(3,324)
Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	2,042	(2,718)
Number offered treatment	...	...	...	...	1,947	(2,516)
Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	1,281	(2,048)
Number of attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	...	5,863	(9,099)
Half days devoted to:-						
(a) Periodic (School) Inspections	...	...	...	...	20	(23½)
(b) Treatment	...	...	...	...	1,051.35	(1,259)
Fillings:-						
(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	3,007	(4,019)
(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	961	(808)
Number of Teeth filled:-						
(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	2,874	(3,492)
(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	899	(712)
Extractions:-						
(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	351	(567)
(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	1,095	(2,067)
Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	...	...	...	...	652	(964)
Other operations:-						
Permanent and Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	924	(2,203)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1964)

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

1965

Mayor:

Alderman R. D. Sharrock, J.P.

Deputy Mayor:

Alderman Mrs. M. Dobner

Aldermen:

H. G. Harris

G. H. Lerpiniere

Councillors:

J. W. N. Bromley

M. B. A. Dives

W. Flanagan

F. W. Goulding

R. S. Hayes

W. F. Keohane

L. V. Marchington

H. W. Newbury

H. F. Quaintance

J. W. Songhurst

R. G. Stickings

E. J. White

Health Committee

Chairman:

W. Flanagan

Vice-Chairman:

M. B. A. Dives

Councillors:

Ald. R. D. Sharrock, J.P.

Ald. G. H. Lerpiniere

W. F. Keohane

H. W. Newbury

H. F. Quaintance

J. W. Songhurst

E. J. White

Town Clerk:

P. I. Warters

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector:

A. Healy

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Queenborough Town Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Queenborough during the year 1965.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population is again 3,100.

There were fewer births than the year before whilst the number of deaths scarcely altered. Both the birth and death rates are slightly higher than the national average.

For the second successive year there were no deaths of infants under one year of age.

Except for a small amount of Scarlet Fever and Measles there was no other infectious disease during the year.

The building of houses by the council at Rushenden continued and in addition eleven houses were completed by private enterprise in Dumergue Avenue. Four houses in the High Street were made the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order now awaiting Ministry confirmation and six houses also in the High Street were demolished.

I should like to thank your Surveyor & Public Health Inspector, Mr. Healy, for his ready co-operation at all times, and I should also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA IN ACRES

Land covered by water	5) 1,103
Land	1,098	

A further 1,272 acres consists of 610 acres of foreshore and 662 acres subject to tidal waters and included in this area is the harbour which is owned by the Council.

2. POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General
for mid-1965 3,100

This figure is the same as the 1964 estimate. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 21 in 1965.

3. NUMBER OF DWELLINGS 1,040

4. RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1965) ... £204,739

5. SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE £760

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	26 (29)	28 (32)	54 (61)
Illegitimate	2 (2)	0 (4)	2 (6)
Totals	28 (31)	28 (36)	56 (67)

2. BIRTH RATE

Crude rate per 1,000 population	18.1 (21.6)
Corrected rate	19.7 (23.6)
Rate for England & Wales	18.0 (18.4)

For the third successive year there was a fall in the number of births, there being 11 less than in 1964, but the birth rate corrected for comparison with other districts was still higher than for the whole country, 19.7 as compared with 18.0.

3. ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS ... 2 (6)

This is 3.6% of all births whereas the recent average is 5.9%.

4. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	- (2)	2 (1)	2 (3)
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	34.5 (42.9)
Rate for England & Wales ... ..	...	...	15.7 (16.3)

Although the rate for 1965 is much higher than for England and Wales, the average of this rate over recent years is 19.3.

5. INFANT DEATHS Nil (Nil)

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births	0.0 (0.0)
Rate for England & Wales	19.0 (19.9)
Number of legitimate infant deaths... ..	0 (0)
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	0 (0)
Number of neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks)	0 (0)
Number of early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week)	0 (0)
Number of peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under 1 week combined)	2 (3)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1964)

6. MATERNAL DEATHS ... Nil

7. DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
	21 (21)	14 (13)	35 (34)
Crude rate per 1,000 population	...	...	11.3 (11.0)
Corrected rate	...	...	12.6 (12.1)
Rate for England & Wales	...	...	11.5 (11.3)

The total of 35 deaths is slightly lower than the recent average.

The average age at death was

64.4 for all deaths (70.1 in 1964)
67.6 for the males (71.6)
59.5 for the females (67.8)

These average ages are low, particularly for the females where the total of 13 comprised 3 under 35 years and another 3 under 60 years. The oldest male was 84 and the oldest female 86.

Details of causes are given in tables II and III from which it will be seen that 33 of the 35 deaths fell into the three main groups, viz.,

- 12 - Malignant new growths (7 in 1964), 6 of which were cancer of the lung
- 14 - Heart disease and associated conditions (18)
- 7 - Respiratory diseases (6)

Diabetes and suicide caused the other two deaths. Once again there were no deaths caused by any type of accident.

8. STILL BIRTHS

Table I below gives the causes of deaths of the 2 still births registered:-

TABLE I

Sex	Cause of death and evidence that child was stillborn
Female	Foetal anoxia
Female	Placental insufficiency

9. INFANT MORTALITY

For the second successive year there were no deaths of infants under one year of age. During the past 10 years there have been 11 deaths of infants giving a death rate of 18.1 per 1,000 live births over that period. In 1965 the England & Wales rate was 19.0 which was once again a new low record.

TABLE II

Male Deaths by cause and age

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1964 totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
2 Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	1	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	(5)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	1	(4)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
18 Coronary disease, angina	5	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
20 Other heart disease	3	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
21 Other circulatory disease	2	(3)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
23 Pneumonia	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
24 Bronchitis	3	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
26 Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
32 Other defined & ill-defined diseases	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	21 (21)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	7	6

TABLE III

Female Deaths by cause and age

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1964 totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16 Diabetes	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	1	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18 Coronary disease, angina	1	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
20 Other heart disease	2	(3)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
21 Other circulatory disease	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
23 Pneumonia	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
24 Bronchitis	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
35 Suicide	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	14 (13)		-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	3	4	4

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. Only 13 cases of infectious disease were notified during 1965 as compared with 143 the year before.

10 of the 13 were cases of Measles; 2 of these occurred in January following the 121 which had been notified in December 1964 and the other 8 all occurred during the summer months.

3 cases of Scarlet Fever were also notified and were all a mild form of this disease.

Although there was no Typhoid Fever in the Borough, four families on return from holiday were discovered to have been contacts of a case but with the co-operation of the 8 persons concerned it was soon proved by the laboratory that they were free from infection.

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Age groups										
		Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles ...	10	1	1	2	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	1
Totals ...	13	1	2	2	1	5	3	1	1	1	1	1

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1964, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification:-

TABLE V

Disease				Total	Total (1964)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1964)
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	3	(9)	2	1	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	(3)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	...	...	...	10	(125)	6	4	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)				-	(3)	-	-	-	3	(2)
Erysipelas	...	...	...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection	...			-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para.				-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para.				-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery	...	...	...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	-	(2)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox	...	...	...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	...	...	...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria	...	...	...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Pul. Tuberculosis	...	...	...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Pul. Tuberculosis	...	...	...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Totals	...			13	(143)	8	5	-	3	(3)

2. TUBERCULOSIS

No new cases of tuberculosis of any form were notified during the year and no deaths were allocated to this disease.

A summary of the Tuberculosis Register is shown in Table VI below:-

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1965 ...	17	7	2	-	26
New notifications	-	-	-	-	-
Inward transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths due to tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of cases on Register					
but not due to tuberculosis ...	2	-	-	-	2
Removed from District ...	-	-	1	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register, 31st December, 1965	15	7	1	-	23

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for supplying me with the following figures of immunisation and vaccination during 1965:-

(a) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	3rd and 4 Dose (Salk and Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)
1965	-	6
1964	-	32
1963	-	3
1962	-	5
1958 - 1961	20	4
1949 - 1957	3	-

It is estimated that about 75% of children in the 1-5 age group have been vaccinated against poliomyelitis.

(b) Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus Immunisation

Year of Birth	Primary		Reinforcing	
	Triple	Diph/Tet	Triple	Diph/Tet
1965	17	-	-	-
1964	31	-	2	-
1963	-	-	18	-
1962	-	-	3	-
1961	-	-	2	1
1958 - 1960	-	-	15	-
1949 - 1957	-	-	1	-

The estimated level of immunised children is being maintained at about 80% in the 1-5 age group.

(c) Smallpox Vaccination

39 children between the ages of 1 and 2 years were vaccinated during the year. Just over 50% of young children have been vaccinated against smallpox.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The Rushenden Pumping Station continues to be used by the Medway Water Board and the average yield was nearly 42,000 gallons per day. Two out of 51 samples of untreated water were reported to be unsatisfactory but 43 samples taken after treatment were all satisfactory.

This source of supply has a natural fluoride content of 0.1 p.p.m.

The whole of the borough is supplied by public water mains direct to the houses.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage flows by gravitation to two main outfalls in South Street and Chalk Wharf. It is stored at these points and released with the ebb tide by manually operated valves and this discharge of untreated sewage is acknowledged to be most unsatisfactory and nuisances can be caused in the Creek and in the vicinity of the outfalls.

A joint sewage disposal scheme is still being considered by the three island authorities.

3. SCHOOLS SANITATION.

The sanitary arrangements at the Schools are satisfactory.

4. REFUSE DISPOSAL

The new tip in the Rushenden area came into use during 1964. Controlled tipping is exercised, a tractor/shovel-dozer being used to cover the face daily. The tip will eventually be screened with a tree belt.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are two public conveniences providing accommodation and washing facilities for both sexes, one situated centrally and the other on the sea front.

6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Nine disinfestations were carried out, one for bugs and eight for cockroaches. There were no disinfections after infectious disease.

7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Ditches were treated regularly during the spring and summer months with an oily preparation to destroy mosquito larvae.

8. RODENT CONTROL

Number of infestations by rats	...	...	...	25
Number of infestations by mice	...	...	...	17
Number treated by local authority	...	...	...	42

9. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

10. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined during the year:-

Faeces	...	...	...	...	11
Urine	...	...	...	...	3

11. OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There are 10 shops registered under this Act employing 25 persons, 10 males and 15 females.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following figures show building progress during 1965 and since the end of the war:-

	During 1965	Total built since the war
Council houses:-		
Completed	8	287
Under construction ...	42	-
Private enterprise:-		
Completed	11	19
Under construction ...	10	-

2. At the end of the year there were 164 applicants on the Council's waiting list. The following are details:-

Queenborough residents in rooms	27
in flats or houses ...	68
Living outside Queenborough in rooms ...	30
in flats or houses ...	39

3. One Clearance Area was represented comprising two houses Nos. 137 and 139 High Street. With the addition of Nos. 133 and 135 High Street this area was included in the Queenborough (High Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1965 which awaited confirmation at the end of the year.

4. Six houses were demolished, Nos. 25, 27, 29, 31, 37 and 39 High Street.

5. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below:-

Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	-

Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-
Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1)	...	...	...	...	-
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-
Houses closed under Sections 17(3) and 26	...	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	-

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	6
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice	...	...	...	...	-
Housing Act, 1957 - formal notice - Section 9 and 16	...	...	...	...	-
Houses made fit under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-

Unfit houses in temporary use

Retained under Section 17(2)	5
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Purchase of houses in temporary use

In Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders	-
--	------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Improvement Grants

Standard grants approved	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total grants	...	...	...	...	...	£442
Discretionary grants approved	...	...	...	...	...	14
Total grants	...	...	...	...	...	£3,519

SECTION VI

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK

There are no producers in the district but thirteen distributors retail the following designations:-

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	3
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	11

2. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough. Nine premises are registered for its sale and all retail pre-packed well-known makes. There are also itinerant vendors who visit the district regularly during the summer.

3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Regular inspections are made of butchers' shops, factory canteens and other food preparing places.

No foods were found to be unfit for human consumption but when meat is condemned it is stained with naphthalene green and sent to the Glue and Chemical Works for processing, whilst tinned and other foods are buried in the Council's tip.

4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) The following are premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

	Premises	Inspections
Ice Cream	6	12
Sausages, manufacture	3	5

(b) 47 inspections were made of 34 other food premises, an analysis of which by type of business appears below:-

Butchery	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocery	...	...	...	...	...	6
General stores	...	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmonger	...	...	...	...	...	1
Baker and confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	1
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	6

32 of these 34 premises comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and of the 20 to which Regulation 19 applies (all categories less general stores and greengrocery) one did not comply.

A statutory notice under the Food Hygiene Regulations was served in respect of one premises and the owner's intentions were awaited.

5. FISH FRYING

There is now only one fish frying establishment and this is always clean and well kept.

6. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.

By courtesy of Mr. A. Cyril Fox, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, I am able to give the details of samples taken in the Borough during the year:-

Blancmange Powder	...	...	...	...	1
Borax and Honey B.P.C.	...	...	...	...	1
Cornflakes	...	...	...	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	2
Gin	...	...	...	...	1
Lemon Jelly	...	...	...	...	1
Linctus of Codeine B.P.C.	...	...	...	...	1
Malt Vinegar	...	...	...	...	2
Milk	...	...	...	...	5
Plain Flour	...	...	...	...	1
Pure Malt Vinegar	...	...	...	...	1
Sauce	...	...	...	...	1
Sweet Pickle	...	...	...	...	1
White Pepper	...	...	...	...	1

All the above samples were satisfactory.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961
in respect of the year 1965 for the
Borough of Queenborough

PART I OF THE ACT:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power)	-	-	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power)	18	20	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	4	-	-
Totals	22	24	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective...	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences ...	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	-	-	-	-	-

3. Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other processes	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX A

Visits and Re-visits during 1965

Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Infectious disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Factories and other premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Public Health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Mosquito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Clearance Areas, Demolition and Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Meat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Smoke, dust and fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1965

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Sinks, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Wall plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

SHEERNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1965

Chairman:
F. W. Roalfe, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:
J. G. Ward

Councillors:

W. Baron
W. G. Baxter
B. J. Buckwell
A. G. Coats, J.P.
A. H. R. Copland
E. Finch
D. A. Jennings
Mrs. B. F. Roalfe
H. A. Snook
Mrs. E. Tiltman (died May 1965)
G. R. F. Topsom
H. L. Wise (resigned June 1965)

Health Committee

Chairman:
B. J. Buckwell

Vice-Chairman:
Mrs. E. Tiltman (died May 1965)
G. R. F. Topsom

Councillors:

E. Finch
Mrs. B. F. Roalfe
F. W. Roalfe, J.P.
H. A. Snook

Clerk of the Council:
J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Senior Public Health Inspector:
D. E. Jacob, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Department
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Sheerness Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Sheerness for the year 1965.

The Registrar-General estimated the population to be 13,710 which was 60 less than the 1964 figure.

There were 258 births and 186 deaths registered during the year, a difference of 72, figures very similar to the year before. The corrected birth rate was 21.3 as compared with the rate for England & Wales of 18.0 while the corrected death rate for the town, 12.1 was also higher than the national rate of 11.5 per 1,000 population. There were fewer deaths of infants under one year of age than ever recorded before and the average rate for Sheerness over the past 10 years is the same as the 1965 low record rate for the whole country.

Except for an epidemic of measles that spread over two-thirds of the year there was little infectious disease.

Representations dealing with eight unfit houses were made, four being contained in clearance areas; twelve houses were demolished in consequence of earlier action under the Housing Act.

I would like to thank Mr. Jacob, the Senior Public Health Inspector, for the able manner in which he has continued to perform his duties and also the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA ... 943 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General
for mid-1965 ... 13,710

This figure is 60 less than the 1964 estimate

3. NUMBER OF DWELLINGS IN THE AREA ... 4,722

4. RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1965) ... £404,317

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE (estimated) ... 1,610

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. LIVE BIRTHS

			Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate ...	...	...	112 (125)	121 (104)	233 (229)
Illegitimate ...	...	...	14 (12)	11 (12)	25 (24)
Totals ...	...	...	126 (137)	132 (116)	258 (253)

2. BIRTH RATE

Crude rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	18.8 (18.4)
Corrected rate ...	...	...	21.3 (20.8)
Rate for England & Wales ...	...	...	18.0 (18.4)

The number of births is 5 more than in 1964 and is only just below the average for the district. The corrected rate is higher than for England & Wales.

3. ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS ... 25 (24)

The illegitimate rate is once again a high one, 9.7% of all births as compared with an average of 7.6%

4. STILL BIRTHS

			Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate ...	...	...	1 (4)	1 (4)	2 (8)
Illegitimate	...	...	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
Rate per 1,000 live and still births					11.5 (34.3)
Rate for England & Wales					15.7 (16.3)

5. INFANT DEATHS ... 2 (4)

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	7.8 (15.8)
Rate for England & Wales ...	...	...	19.0 (19.9)
Number of legitimate infant deaths ...	...	...	2 (4)
Number of illegitimate infant deaths ...	...	...	0 (0)
Number of neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks) ...	...	...	1 (4)
Number of early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week) ...	...	...	0 (4)
Number of peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under 1 week combined) ...	...	...	3 (13)

6. MATERNAL DEATHS ... Nil

(Figures in brackets relate to 1964)

7. DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
	103 (102)	83 (78)	186 (180)
Crude rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	13.6 (13.1)
Corrected rate... ..	...	...	12.1 (11.8)
Rate for England & Wales ...	...	...	11.5 (11.3)

The average number of deaths over the past ten years has been 190 so 1965 was slightly lower although the corrected rate of 12.1 is a little higher than that of 11.5 for England & Wales. The average age at death was

68.7 (67.6 in 1964)
 67.4 (63.5) for the males
 70.4 (73.0) for the females

but if deaths of children and young persons under 21 were excluded, then the average ages would be

71.7 (70.5) for all deaths
 71.5 (67.1) for males
 71.9 (74.9) for females

Details of causes are given in tables III and IV and it will be seen that 159 of the 186 deaths fall into the three main groups, viz.,

- 39 - Malignant new growths (39 in 1964)
- 94 - Heart disease and associated conditions (85)
- 26 - Respiratory diseases (27)

There were 5 deaths from violence, 1 a suicide, 1 a pedestrian knocked down by a pedal cyclist, 1 the driver of a car colliding with a tree and 2 children electrocuted on the railway. There were also three deaths from infectious disease, 1 from pulmonary tuberculosis, one from meningococcal infection and the third from syphilis.

8. STILL BIRTHS

Table I below gives the causes of deaths of the 3 still births registered:-

TABLE I

Sex	Cause of death and evidence that child was stillborn
Male	Macerated still birth, cause unknown Small grossly infarcted placenta
Male	Accidental haemorrhage
Female	Hydramnios Breech delivery

9. INFANT MORTALITY

There were only two deaths of infants under one year of age and this low figure has never been bettered, on three occasions there have been 3 recorded but never so few as 2. The rate per 1,000 live births is therefore only 7.8 and the average over the past ten years is 19.0 which is the same as the rate for the whole country in 1965, the lowest that has ever been. Details of the deaths are given in the following table:-

TABLE II

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Prematurity	M	2 weeks	Hospital	Hospital
Meningococcal Septicaemia	M	9 months	-	Hospital

Cause

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1964 Totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	(1)									1		
3 Syphilitic disease	1	(1)										1	
6 Meningococcal infection	1	(1)		1									
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	(2)											
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	(12)											
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	(14)											
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	(1)			1								
16 Diabetes	1	(2)											
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	(4)											
18 Coronary disease, angina	29	(24)											
19 Hypertension with heart disease	1	(-)											
20 Other heart disease	9	(5)											
21 Other circulatory disease	4	(2)											
23 Pneumonia	8	(12)			1								
24 Bronchitis	11	(10)											
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	1	(-)											
26 Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	(1)											
27 Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	(1)											
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	(-)											
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	2	(-)											
31 Congenital malformations	1	(-)			1								
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	(6)	1										
33 Motor vehicle accidents	1	(2)											
34 All other accidents	1	(3)			1								
35 Suicide	-	(1)											
Totals	103	(102)	1	1	4	-	-	2	-	6	20	24	45

TABLE IV - Female Deaths by cause and age

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1964 Totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	(5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	(5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	12	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
16 Diabetes	2	(15)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	10	(14)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7
18 Coronary disease, angina	18	(5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
19 Hypertension with heart disease	1	(13)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
20 Other heart disease	10	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
21 Other circulatory disease	2	(4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
23 Pneumonia	1	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
24 Bronchitis	4	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	1	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
26 Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
28 Nephritis & nephrosis	2	(4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
32 Other defined & ill-defined diseases	9	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
34 All other accidents	6	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
35 Suicide	2	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	83 (78)	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	8	12	20	40

SECTION III
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

L. Except for the epidemic of measles which started at the end of 1964 and carried on until August and totalled 347 cases, there was very little other infectious disease during the year. Only three cases of Scarlet Fever occurred. Of the ten notified cases of Whooping Cough, one was a child of under 1 year and two were under 2 years of age.

There were two uncommon infections, one a paratyphoid and the other a meningococcal meningitis. The paratyphoid was a young man normally living in London with his home here but neither the family here nor the household in which he lived in London was able to furnish any clues as to the origin. He made a quick recovery. The meningococcal infection was notified of a child of nine months in Sheppey General Hospital and therefore does not appear in the list of infectious diseases for Sheerness although it will be seen in the death table. The child died on the evening of the same day he was removed.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis although at one time there was one person under surveillance living in the town who had been a contact of a case in a small epidemic that affected Blackburn. Returning holidaymakers also were discovered to have been contacts with a person subsequently diagnosed as suffering from Typhoid Fever but all willingly submitted to laboratory tests and were found to be negative.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Age groups										
		Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	10	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	347	14	38	46	62	49	129	7	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paratyphoid	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pul. Tuberculosis ...	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Non-Pul. Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	372	15	41	47	63	50	135	8	4	3	3	3

Table VI shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1964, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification:-

TABLE VI

Disease	Total	Total (1964)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1964)
Scarlet Fever	3	(5)	1	2	1	1	(1)
Whooping Cough	10	(28)	5	5	1	1	(1)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Measles	347	(50)	190	157	1	1	(1)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	7	(9)	5	2	1	9	(16)
Erysipelas	1	(3)	1	-	1	1	(1)
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para.	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Non-Para.	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Dysentery	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Paratyphoid	1	(-)	1	-	1	1	(1)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	1	1	(1)
Food Poisoning	-	(-)	-	-	2	1	(3)
Pul. Tuberculosis	2	(5)	2	-	2	1	(1)
Non-Pul. Tuberculosis	1	(1)	1	-	1	-	(1)
Totals	372	(101)	206	166	4	11	(19)

2. TUBERCULOSIS

There were only three new cases of Tuberculosis, two pulmonary and one non-pulmonary and this is a total that has been as low but never lower. One case was a child of only one year and the infection was traced by the Chest Clinic to a relative with whom the child had stayed and who subsequently was found to be suffering from tuberculosis. The non-pulmonary case was a boy of 16, localisation of the disease being the spine.

One death from the pulmonary form occurred and this was a man of 61 who was originally notified in 1959.

TABLE VII

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1965 ...	72	35	2	3	112
New notifications	2	-	1	-	3
Cases not notified before death ...	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from other districts ...	-	-	1	-	1
Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths due to Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths of cases but not due to Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	1
Removed from district or cannot be traced... ..	1	-	-	-	1
Recovered	2	1	-	-	3
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1965 ...	69	34	4	3	110

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for supplying me with the following figures of immunisation and vaccination during 1965:-

(a) Poliomyelitis

Year of Birth	3rd and 4 Dose (Salk and Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)
1965	-	36
1964	1	132
1963	1	29
1962	-	14
1958 - 1961	73	21
1949 - 1957	10	6

There were fewer immunised than in 1964 but about three-quarters of young children in the 1-5 age group are immune.

(b) Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus Immunisation

Year of Birth	Primary		Reinforcing	
	Triple	Diph/Tet	Triple	Diph/Tet
1965	95	-	-	-
1964	121	1	3	-
1963	17	1	62	8
1962	7	-	20	4
1961	1	-	11	7
1958 - 1960	3	1	85	37
1949 - 1957	2	1	9	8

The percentage of vaccinated children in the lower age group is estimated to be around 80%.

(c) Smallpox Vaccination

126 children between the ages of 1 and 2 years were vaccinated against smallpox. Just over 50% of young children have been vaccinated.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

In April 1965 the Sheppey Water Board was regrouped with the Medway Water Board. The Trinity Road and Sheerness East pumping stations are still in operation and the Island supply is augmented from the mainland Belmont scheme.

The daily averages pumped from the two bores were -

Trinity Road	- 193,819 gallons
Sheerness East	- 232,120 gallons
and from Belmont	- 751,057 gallons

Water from Trinity Road has a natural fluoride content of 0.3 p.p.m., Sheerness East has 0.4 p.p.m. whilst the water from the mainland has none.

The whole of the district is supplied by public water mains direct to the houses except for the Harbour Estate where 24 wellings have a piped supply from the Estate's own bores.

Of 102 samples of raw water from the public supply, 5 were unsatisfactory, while only 1 was unsatisfactory of the 132 taken of the treated water. 24 samples of treated water from the Harbour Estate were all good.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage is collected at two main pumping stations. The canal station deals with sewage from the Marine Town area, the newer parts of Mile Town and the new housing estates. The sewage from these areas collects in a tide lock storage tank at West Minster, hence it flows out to sea by gravity at low tide or is pumped out at high tide. Sewage from Blue Town and the older part of Mile Town is collected at West Minster pumping station and this is also pumped out to sea. Four subsidiary lifting stations are used throughout the town and the sewage is screened either at one of the lifting stations or at the main pumping stations but is not otherwise treated.

The discharge is taken to a point below low water mark in the river Medway, 1,350 feet from the shore. Periodical inspections of the beaches have shown no evidence of sewage being washed onto the foreshore and no complaints of such fouling have been received.

A joint sewage disposal scheme is still being considered by the three island authorities.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

The refuse tip is situated at Windmill Creek in the Sheppey Rural District and disposal by controlled tipping is operated jointly by the Sheerness Urban District Council and the Sheppey Rural District Council.

Special collections of large items of discarded furniture, bedding etc. have been continued and a scheme for the disposal of abandoned derelict motor vehicles on land under the Council's control has also operated successfully.

4. SWIMMING POOL

The swimming pool was out of use for the whole of the summer season due to major repairs to the pool and the provision of new buildings to house the purification plant.

The construction of a new children's paddling pool was begun during the year and will be available in 1966.

5. SCHOOLS SANITATION

There have been no changes in the premises of the Schools during the year but plans for the Church of England School to be built in St. George's Avenue were advanced and it is understood construction will begin in 1966. Meanwhile the condition of this School's existing premises made necessary the continued use of the Methodist Church premises for some classes.

6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Four conveniences for both sexes are situated at Beach approach opposite the Bus and Railway Stations; Pavilion Gardens; Marine Parade; and in Royal Road. There is also a small convenience for males only in West Street, Blue Town. The extension of car parks in Rose Street in close proximity to the central shopping area increased the need for the re-opening of the Wood Street conveniences and provision for this was included in the estimates for 1966.

7. LETHAL CHAMBER FOR CATS AND DOGS

The Council continued to provide this service for the humane destruction of sick and aged animals using lethal chambers supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. and their regular use indicates the demand for these facilities. During 1965 the chambers were used for 77 cats and 60 dogs, a total of 45 less than in 1964.

8. CAMPING SITES

There are three camping sites in the Urban District. All are for holiday use only, being limited to the months of March to October. All have flush toilets with sewer connections, mains water supplies and weekly refuse collections. Further improvements were carried out to enable them to comply with the licence conditions within the five years allowed under the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.

Proposals for licensing part of the undeveloped land at Barton's Point Holiday Centre (now chalets) were under consideration at the end of the year. This site also has mains water supply and drainage to the Council's sewer.

9. DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS

(a) Three disinfections were carried out after cases of infectious disease.

(b) The following are details of disinfestations:-

Fleas	...	...	...	31
Bugs	...	...	...	1
Cockroaches	...	...	...	19
Beetles	...	...	...	22
Ants	...	...	...	3
Wasps	...	...	...	20
Flies	...	...	...	1
Earwigs	...	...	...	3

(c) There has been a continuing decline in cases of infectious disease where terminal disinfection is required but insect pests such as cockroaches and fleas are still prevalent and there was an increase in wasps' nests on domestic premises.

10. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Watercourses continue to be treated with a larvicide specially prepared for forming an oil film containing DDT on the surface of the water. Whilst this limits the breeding in these places, residents can prevent accumulations of rain water in tins, jars etc. on their premises which will provide breeding places for mosquitoes during showery weather early in the year.

11. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Surface infestations

Number of properties found to be infested after complaint or survey by Rodent Operator -

By rats	...	...	...	61
By mice	...	...	...	73

There was a small increase in surface infestations by rats and a small decrease by mice. In dealing with these, 105 dwelling-houses and 28 other premises were inspected as a result of notification and 158 dwelling-houses and 49 other premises in the course of survey under the Act. A further 14 dwelling-houses and 22 other premises were inspected when visited primarily for other purposes.

(b) Sewer treatment

As a systematic treatment was carried out late in 1964, it was decided to concentrate sewer treatment in 1965 on more frequent localised baiting in those parts of the system previously found infested and 26 manholes were baited until no further takes were recorded.

12. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

13. CLEAN AIR ACT

No further development took place during 1965 on the proposed Steel Mill on the Well Marsh.

There has been an increase in oil burning installations for space heating and adequate chimney heights for the discharge of waste flue gases are essential. Frequently chimney heights of new buildings are designed to aesthetic proportions and as a result often fall short of the recommended heights to satisfy the Act when being considered for byelaw approval. Plans showing proposed installations and erection of chimneys are studied by the Health Department.

14. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

The Health Department maintains close liaison with the County Welfare services and every effort is made through these and voluntary services to assist persons in their homes to prevent circumstances arising which necessitate compulsory removal.

One old person in need of care and attention was removed to hospital.

19 inspections were made of houses occupied by old people to ascertain their ability to care for themselves.

15. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined during the year -

Water	...	...	...	...	75
Milk	...	...	...	...	35
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	15
Cockles	...	...	...	...	2
Urine	...	...	...	...	12
Faeces	...	...	...	...	25

16. OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There were 46 new registrations during the year and 16 deletions, making an increase of 30; the total now registered is 230. Of this number 61 are offices, 137 shops, 5 wholesale shops and warehouses, 24 catering premises and canteens and 3 fuel storage depots. These premises employ 1,262 persons of whom 773 are females and 489 males. These figures relate only to those premises registered with this Council, other premises, viz., County Council, local police and fire authorities, offices in factories are registered by the Factories Inspectorate.

A detailed inspection of 50 premises was made during the year and showed that display of an abstract of the Act, provision of thermometers and first aid boxes, repair and maintenance of sanitary accommodation and washing facilities, maintenance of adequate temperature, poor lighting to parts of premises and provision of handrail and protection of machinery were matters requiring attention, the frequency of these omissions being in the order given.

During November a survey to obtain information on lighting standards was made at 48 premises and this information has been forwarded to the Safety, Health & Welfare Department of the Ministry of Labour.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. Provision of accommodation

The second scheme for housing aged persons was completed during the year. This contains 37 flats, 9 for elderly couples and 28 for elderly persons living alone, and each contains its own bathroom, kitchen, sittingroom and separate bedroom. The scheme also includes a guest room, laundry room, communal lounge and warden's flat. This is called Rule Court and is situated adjoining the first scheme, St. George's Court in St. George's Avenue.

The development of Sheppey Court Estate started in the summer and the first completed units were occupied early in 1966. This scheme provides for a variety of types and sizes of accommodation from bed-sitter flats to 3-bedroomed houses and includes 151 units of accommodation.

2. Housing needs

The progress and completion of Rule Court has met the outstanding need of elderly persons but it is felt that this type of accommodation is so appropriate to their needs that a further scheme is anticipated.

Further building at Sheppey Court Estate will help to reduce the general waiting list.

3. Slum clearance

A limited start on the slum clearance agreed by the Council was made during the year and two clearance areas each containing two houses were represented. The properties concerned were

22 and 23 High Street, Blue Town
2 and 4 James Street

The Clearance Order on the Blue Town properties was confirmed but there was an objection to the James Street Order and this remained the subject of an Inquiry to be held in 1966.

Individual Demolition Orders were made on

28 Pepys Avenue
170 and 172 High Street

A Closing Order was made on 46 High Street, Blue Town.

A total of 12 houses were demolished, detailed below -

In Clearance Areas - Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 Railway Road
Nos. 86, 88, 90, 92 and 94 Rose Street

Demolition Orders - Nos. 170, 172 and 222 High Street

4. Rehousing in 1965

Six families were rehoused from unfit houses. Clearance of the Railway Road houses enabled an extension of Cross Street to Railway Road which forms part of the redevelopment of the town centre. The remaining sites were not redeveloped during the year.

5. Housing Improvement

There was a considerable increase in the number of grants made compared with the previous year, particularly in discretionary grants.

15 standard grants totalled £1,923 compared with 13 and £1,529 in 1964; 37 discretionary grants totalled £7,077 compared with 14 and £2,189.

The majority of applicants for grants are received from owner/occupiers and only a few for tenanted properties.

No compulsory improvement areas were made under Part II of the Housing Act, 1964.

Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing is summarised below:-

Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	9
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement ...	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957 ...	-
Number of families displaced from Clearance Areas	5
Number of persons displaced	12

Houses not in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17 Housing Act, 1957	2
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 Housing Act, 1957	3
Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 17 of Housing Act, 1957	-
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	-
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	-
Total number of families displaced	1

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	136
Housing Act, 1957 - formal notice	-
Houses made fit by local authority after formal notice under Public Health Acts	-

Purchase of houses by agreement

Houses in Clearance Areas (not confirmed Clearance Orders or C.P.O.'s) purchased in the year	-
---	---

Rent Act, 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	-
Undertakings by landlords	-
Certificates of Disrepair issued	-
No. of Certificates cancelled	-

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Four instances of need for retailers to take care in correct stock rotation of perishable foods occurred relating to deterioration in freshness in margarine, a doughnut filling, and in a meat pie.

The wrapping of foods in cellophane before adequate cooling was emphasised where minute mould growth occurred in otherwise quite fresh Scotch pancakes.

Complaint of a worm in baked beans proved to be a bean shoot.

A piece of plastic material apparently from machinery was found embedded in imported cheese. The matter was taken up with the country of origin and assurances were given that use of plastic material and glass had been discontinued and replaced by stainless steel.

An object appearing to be a dried stalk or pod in mixed cake fruit on examination was found to be a slug. Legal proceedings were taken by the Food & Drugs Authority, the defendants being convicted by way of an absolute discharge.

Considering the extent of food handled by food retailers, the occasions for complaint are few, nevertheless vigilance is necessary both to eliminate problems as indicated above and to maintain food hygiene standards.

2. MILK SUPPLY.

The new Milk Regulations allowing the ultra heat treatment of milk came into force during the year but have not yet produced any changes in the treatment or packaging of milk in the area. Supplies are retailed by two dairies each with H.T.S.T. plant, one of which is in the urban district and the other in the adjoining rural district. Each of these dairies also retails sterilised milk obtained from another dairy. One complaint of alleged dirty milk bottle was found to be a "stone" in the glass, another to a discolouring and deposit on the underside of the cap. These were taken up with the dairy and the district in which the milk was bottled.

23 samples of pasteurised milk were taken and all passed the phosphatase and methylene blue tests. 12 samples of sterilised milk all satisfied the turbidity test.

3. ICE CREAM

Ice cream is retailed from 41 registered premises and from catering premises exempt from registrations. In addition five mobile ice cream vans regularly visit the town.

One local producer makes a cold mix ice cream, the remaining sources of supply are from large manufacturers of national repute.

15 samples were taken of ice cream sold from cans to check hygienic conditions of this unwrapped product. 10 samples were grade 1, 4 were grade 2 and 1 grade 3.

4. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) Meat supplies were obtained mainly from wholesale supplies at Chatham and Canterbury. Frequent observations on transport conditions were made and satisfactory conditions were maintained. The high standard of abattoir inspection and adequacy of transport is indicated in the very small amount of butchers' meat condemned - 24 lb.

(b) Condemned butchers' meat is coloured with liquid acid green and arrangements have continued as in previous years for its disposal at the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works. Other unsound foods are buried on the controlled refuse tip and unsalable defrosted foods used for animal feeding.

(c) The following are details of just over 19 cwt. of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

Butchers' meat	...	...	...	...	...	24 lb.
Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	...	301 lb.
Wet fish	...	...	...	...	...	756 lb.
Tinned fish	...	...	...	...	...	20 lb.
Tinned fruit	...	...	...	...	...	481 lb.
Tinned vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	135 lb.
Tinned milk and cream	...	...	...	...	...	67 lb.
Tinned cereals	...	...	...	...	...	24 lb.
Tinned jams etc.	...	...	...	...	...	11 lb.
Tinned soups	...	...	...	...	...	29 lb.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	54 lb.
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	15 lb.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	19 lb.
Miscellaneous frozen foods made unfit by refrigerator failures	...	...	...	...	...	217 lb.

There was a reduction in the amount of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered by some $\frac{3}{4}$ ton and was due to considerably smaller amounts of wet fish, tinned meat and frozen foods condemned. Much of the tinned food condemned is found to be in leaking, severely damaged tins through bad handling and the proportion due to faulty processing and canning is relatively small.

5. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 60 inspections were made of the following premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:-

	Premises	Inspections
Ice Cream, manufacture, storage and sale	42	42
Preserved foods, manufacture	16	18
Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959		
Dairies	1)	45
Milk Distributors	33)	

(b) Other food premises, by type of business, are shown below:-

Hotels	9
Licensed premises	22
Licensed clubs	6
Cafes, restaurants and snackbars	28
Butchers	14
Wet fish	8
Fried fish	6
Sweet manufacture	1
Bakeries	2
Groceries	20
General	21
Greengrocery	17
Confectionery and sweets	23

173 inspections were made at these premises during the year.

All of the 177 premises comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and of the 116 in the first ten categories to which Regulation 19 applies it is known that 110 comply.

6. FISH FRYING

The six fish frying premises in the town were conducted satisfactorily and without complaint.

7. SHELLFISH

Two samples of cockles on retail sale were found to be free from pathogenic organisms.

As in previous years the fish trade was reminded of the Order controlling the dealing in locally collected shellfish and supplies on retail sale were obtained from wholesalers in Faversham and London.

Notices warning persons of this Order and the risk from contaminated shellfish are displayed at the approach to the principal beaches concerned to warn also persons collecting for their own consumption.

8. BAKEHOUSES

No bread is baked in the district, the only bakeries are two producing pastries and pies and both are well conducted business.

Bread supplies from large bakeries are supplied wholesale to shops and are also retailed from vans coming into the area.

9. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am indebted to Mr. A. Cyril Fox, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year:-

Apple and Raspberry Jam	...	...	1	Lanolin	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	4	Lard	...	...	1
Butter Beans	...	...	...	1	Lassers Paste B.P.	...	...	1
Bronchial and Catarrh Syrup	...	...	1	Lemons	...	...	...	1
Casserole Steak	...	...	...	1	Liquorice Bon-Bons	...	...	1
Cheese	...	...	...	1	Marval - Instant	...	...	1
Choco Crunch Cakes	...	...	...	1	non-fat skimmed	...	...	1
Compound Codeine Tablets B.P.C.	...	...	1	Marzipan	...	...	...	1
Cooking Fat	...	...	...	1	Milk	...	...	13
Cream	...	...	...	1	Mixed Fruit	...	...	1
Double Devon Cream	...	...	...	1	Orange Juice	...	...	1
Drinking Chocolate with	...	...	...	1	Oranges	...	...	1
fat-free milk	...	...	...	1	Red Cherries	...	...	1
Dripping	...	...	...	1	Rum...	...	...	1
Fresh Cream	...	...	...	1	Skim Milk Powder	...	...	2
Fruit Sauce	...	...	...	1	Steak and Kidney Pie	...	...	1
Gees Linctus Pastilles B.P.C.	...	...	1	Stewed Steak in Gravy...	...	...	...	1
Gin	...	...	...	1	Swiss Roll	...	...	1
Honey	...	...	...	1	Tea...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	1	Tomato Ketchup	...	...	1
Influenzal Mixture	...	...	...	1	Whisky	...	...	3

All the above samples were satisfactory with the exception of the following:-

Prepacked Mixed Fruit	Contained a dried 1.1 inch slug	Proceedings against the Woodbridge Canning Co., Ltd., Woodbridge, Suffolk the packers. Pleaded guilty. Given Absolute Discharge and awarded £4 4s. Od. legal costs to the County Council.
Liquorice Bon-Bons	Contained piece of a paper clip	The manufacturers were cautioned.
Canned Stewed Steak	Not of standard required, only 61% meat	Manufacturers were informed.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961
in respect of the year 1965 for the
Urban District of Sheerness

PART I OF THE ACT:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power)	5	1	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power)	74	12	1	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	1	-	-
Totals	83	14	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred To By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences ...	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	1	1	-	-	-

3. Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecution
Making of wearing apparel	24	-	-	-	-	-
Other processes	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX A

Visits and Re-visits during 1965

Bug infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Verminous houses and other household pests (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Filthy conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1053
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mosquito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Infectious disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Smoke, dust and fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Public health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	260
Inspections under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Inspections in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Inspections re D.O.'s and C.O.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Inspections for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Slum clearance re-housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Halls and places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Marine stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pet shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Milk sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Ice cream sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Restaurants and cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Food manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous visits and interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Care and attention of aged persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Noise Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
National Assistance Act - Burials	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scrap Metal Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1965

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Sinks, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Wall plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Windows and ventilation repaired and improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1965

Chairman:

Mrs. M. M. Bourbousson, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

G. T. Parris, C.C.

Councillors:

B. E. Bigg
R. N. Bigg (resigned Dec. 1965)
F. P. Brissenden
A. G. H. Danton
A. P. Dummott
N. W. Ford
J. B. Hines
Mrs. N. Hodges
M. B. Jaquest
H. King (died Dec. 1965)
Miss E. M. Mills
Mrs. J. Neill Morrison, J.P.
C. W. Nevill
D. A. Prince
F. H. Purvis
J. A. Purvis
A. W. Stone
G. D. Thomsett

Health Committee

Chairman:

Mrs. N. Hodges

Councillors:

Mrs. M. M. Bourbousson, J.P.
Miss E. M. Mills
Mrs. J. Neill Morrison, J.P.
C. W. Nevill
G. T. Parris, C.C.
J. A. Purvis
A. W. Stone
G. D. Thomsett

Clerk of the Council:

R. E. Gray, D.M.A., F.C.C.S.

Public Health Inspector:

T. E. Davies, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Sheppey Rural District Council

Madam Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the health of the Sheppey Rural District during 1965.

The Registrar-General estimated the population to have increased by 590 from 10,750 to 11,340.

For the fifth successive year there was an increase in the number of births and the 234 registered is the highest ever recorded in the district. The corrected birth rate is 25.2 as compared with 18.0 for England & Wales. The number of deaths was 126 which gives a rate per 1,000 of population of 11.1 as compared with 11.5 for the whole country.

There were 5 deaths of infants under one year of age, the same as in 1964 and the rate of 21.4 per 1,000 live births is slightly higher than the new low record of 19.0 for England & Wales.

1965 was a Measles year and there were 326 cases but there was little Scarlet Fever or Whooping Cough. An unusual occurrence the first since 1957, was a single case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis.

One house was demolished and two closed as a result of action under the Housing Act and new houses completed privately and by the Council totalled 95.

I would like to thank Mr. Davies, the Public Health Inspector for the able manner in which he has performed his duties and also the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA 20,319 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated for mid-1965 by the
Registrar-General 11,340

This figure is 590 more than the previous year. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 108.

3. NUMBER OF DWELLING IN THE AREA 4,131

4. RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1965) £398,204

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE £1,645

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. LIVE BIRTHS

			Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate ...	...	...	120 (100)	98 (78)	218 (178)
Illegitimate ...	...	...	7 (8)	9 (6)	16 (14)
Totals ...	...	...	127 (108)	107 (84)	234 (192)

With the increase in population an increase in the number of births is expected and the total of 234 births is the highest recorded, the previous best being 224 with the average recently being 170.

2. BIRTH RATE

Crude rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	20.6 (17.9)
Corrected rate ...	...	...	...	25.2 (22.7)
Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	18.0 (18.4)

From 1941 -- 1948 there was a sequence of crude birth rates of over 20 per 1,000 population and the crude rate for 1965 of 20.6 is the highest since then.

3. ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS ... 16 (14)

This is 6.8% of total live births and is lower than the 1964 7.3% and also the local average of 7.5%

4. STILL BIRTHS

			Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate ...	...	...	2 (2)	2 (5)	4 (7)
Illegitimate ...	...	...	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	16.8 (40.0)
Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	...	15.7 (16.3)

The local average rate for still births is 24.7.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1964)

INFANT DEATHS ... 5 (5)

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	21.4	(26.0)
Rate for England & Wales	...	...	19.0	(19.9)
Number of legitimate infant deaths	...	...	5	(5)
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	...	...	-	(-)
Number of neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks)	...	...	4	(4)
Number of early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week)	...	...	3	(4)
Number of peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under 1 week combined)	...	...	7	(12)

MATERNAL DEATHS ... Nil

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
	72 (58)	54 (54)	126 (112)
Crude rate per 1,000 population	...	...	11.1 (10.4)
Corrected rate	...	...	11.1 (9.7)
Rate for England & Wales	...	...	11.5 (11.3)

There were 14 deaths more in 1965 than the year before but the average for the district is 122 as compared with the 126 registered. The average age at death was

65.4 (68.3 in 1964)
 64.3 (67.9) for the males
 66.7 (68.8) for the females

but if deaths of infants and adolescents were excluded then the average at death would be

70.7 for all deaths
 68.8 for males
 73.1 for females

Details of causes are given in tables III and IV from which it will be seen that 107 of the 126 fell into the three main groups, viz.,

- 30 - Malignant new growths (22 in 1964)
- 63 - Heart disease and associated conditions (63)
- 14 - Respiratory diseases (10)

There were 6 deaths due to motor vehicle accidents and other violence, three of them being pedestrians knocked down by cars, one an accident at work and two were suicides. There were no fatalities from accidents in the home.

8. STILL BIRTHS

Table I below gives the causes of death of the 4 still births registered:-

TABLE I

Sex	Cause of death and evidence that child was stillborn
Male	Ante partum haemorrhage Placental insufficiency
Male	Diabetes Placental insufficiency
Female	Hydramnios Twin pregnancy II Macerated foetus
Female	Ante partum haemorrhage

9. INFANT MORTALITY

There were again 5 deaths of infants under the age of 1 year, the same as in 1964. Three of them were aged less than 1 week. This gives an infant death rate per 1,000 live births of 21.4 and 10 year average of 23.0 as compared with an England & Wales record low rate of 19.0 for 1965. Details of the five deaths are given below:-

TABLE II

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Inhalation of mucus II Cerebral trauma	M	10 mins	Hospital	Hospital
Foetal abnormalities Placental insufficiency	F	20 mins	Home	Home
Congenital heart disease II Multiple congenital abnormalities	M	4 days	Hospital	Hospital
Ac. cardiac failure Congenital heart disease (two chambered heart)(operation)	F	1 week	Hospital	Hospital
Lobar Pneumonia	F	1 month	Hospital	Hospital

Male Deaths by cause and age

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1964 totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	(7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10	(5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 Diabetes	1	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18 Coronary disease, angina	20	(13)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2
19 Hypertension with heart disease	4	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
20 Other heart disease	6	(13)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
21 Other circulatory disease	2	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
23 Pneumonia	1	(5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
24 Bronchitis	5	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
26 Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Congenital malformations	1	(1)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	(3)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
33 Motor vehicle accidents	2	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34 All other accidents	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 Suicide	2	(-)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	72 (58)	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	7	13	22	23

TABLE IV

Female Deaths by cause and age

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1964 Totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	(1)											1
11 Malignant neoplasms, lung, bronchus ..	1	(1)											1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	(7)								2	1	1	1
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	(1)								1	3	1	1
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	(1)											1
16 Diabetes	1	(1)											1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	13	(5)									1	2	10
18 Coronary disease, angina	8	(14)										3	5
19 Hypertension with heart disease	3	(-)									1	1	1
20 Other heart disease	2	(11)								1	1	1	1
21 Other circulatory disease	1	(2)									1	1	1
23 Pneumonia	5	(2)									1	1	3
24 Bronchitis	2	(-)											2
25 Other diseases of respiratory system..	1	(1)											1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	(1)											1
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	(-)											1
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	2	(1)											1
31 Congenital malformations	2	(1)	2										1
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	(6)	1									2	1
33 Motor vehicle accidents	1	(-)	1										1
Totals	54	(54)	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	4	6	14	25

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

The Measles epidemic which started in December 1964 continued into 1965 and 292 cases were notified in the first four months, with an additional 34 in the summer months.

The 11 cases of Whooping Cough were all in the first three months and 8 of them were confined to three families; 6 of them were only 2 years of age. Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and were all mild.

The case of Meningococcal Infection, which died in Sheppey General Hospital, was notified after admission from Sheerness U.D. the time between the child of 9 months falling sick and his death being only hours.

Until 1965 there had been no Poliomyelitis since 1957 and the child of 9 years who was notified as a non-paralytic case had been vaccinated against the disease and made a good recovery. Specimens were taken from the patient and contacts but it was not possible to isolate the virus.

No Typhoid Fever occurred in the district but 15 residents on their return from holiday were found to have been in contact with a person who later developed the disease. The immediate co-operation of the 15 persons enabled the laboratory to dispel any fears that they may have contracted the disease.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Age groups										
		Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	11	-	-	6	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	326	15	47	43	51	42	123	4	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis-non-para	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pul. Tuberculosis ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	352	16	47	50	51	44	128	4	5	2	2	3

Table VI shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1964, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification:-

TABLE VI

Disease	Total	Total (1963)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1963)
Scarlet Fever	3	(6)	2	1	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	11	(14)	3	8	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	326	(65)	188	138	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	5	(2)	3	2	1	6	(7)
Erysipelas	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	(-)	1	-	1	1*	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para.	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para.	1	(-)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Dysentery	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	(3)	-	4	4	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	-	(2)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Pul. Tuberculosis	1	(2)	1	-	1	-	(-)
Non-Pul. Tuberculosis	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals	352	(95)	198	154	7	7	(7)

* Non-resident

2. TUBERCULOSIS

Only one case of tuberculosis was notified compared with an average of four. For the third successive year there were no deaths from any form of this disease.

Table VII is a summary of the register:-

TABLE VII

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
		M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1965	...	40	36	7	7	90
New notifications	... ..	1	-	-	-	1
Transfers from other districts	...	2	1	-	-	3
Deaths due to Tuberculosis	... ..	-	-	-	-	-
Removed from district	... ..	1	-	-	-	1
Recovered	... ..	2	1	-	1	4
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1965	...	40	36	7	6	89

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for supplying me with the following figures of immunisations and vaccinations during 1965:-

(a) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	3rd and 4 Dose (Salk and Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)
1965	-	31
1964	2	101
1963	-	17
1962	-	8
1958 - 1961	77	9
1949 - 1951	6	2

The increase in young children completing a course in 1964 was maintained in 1965 but the percentage of children immunised in the 1-5 age group is about 60% as compared with 75% for the rest of the Island.

(b) Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus Immunisation

Year of Birth	Primary		Reinforcing	
	Triple	Diph/Tet	Triple	Diph/Tet
1965	83	-	-	-
1964	89	-	4	1
1963	9	-	44	2
1962	3	-	15	-
1961	1	-	12	-
1958 - 1960	-	-	73	9
1949 - 1957	-	-	4	1

Last year's increase in the number of young children immunised was repeated but this trend must be maintained to increase the present low 65% immunised children in the 1-5 age group.

(c) Smallpox Vaccination

101 children between the ages of one and two years were vaccinated. Just over 50% of young children have been vaccinated against smallpox.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

In April 1965 the Sheppey Water Board was regrouped with the Medway Water Board. The four pumping stations that formerly supplied the needs of the district are still operating and a bulk supply to the Island is made from Belmont on the mainland.

The following are the daily averages pumped and also the natural fluoride content of these bores -

Warden Springs	-	56,347 gallons	1.4 p.p.m.
Water Lane	-	36,797 gallons	1.3 p.p.m.
Abbey Gate	-	45,950 gallons	0.6 p.p.m.
Wall End	-	204,375 gallons	Less than 0.1 p.p.m.
Belmont	-	751,057 gallons	None

Two samples of untreated water were reported as unsatisfactory out of a total of 162 taken and all of the 199 samples of treated water were satisfactory.

The number of dwelling-houses supplied, with the source and method of distribution was as follows:-

	From public supplies		Private or communal wells	
	Tap in house	Standpipe	No. of wells	No. of houses
Minster ...	3,320	-	-	-
Eastchurch	491	3	1	1
Warden ...	112	-	-	-
Leysdown ...	216	-	2	70*
Harty ...	-	-	5	14
Elmley ...	2	-	-	-

* These are mainly bungalows and chalets at Shellness Hamlet used as summer residences only and also beach chalets along Shellness beach. In addition, all camping sites are supplied with water from public mains.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The following statement shows in summary form the method of sewage disposal throughout the district:-

				Number of properties, including camps		
				Main drainage	Cesspools	Pail closets
Minster	...	...	...	3,218	101	53
Eastchurch	...	...	...	305	190	89
Leysdown	...	...	...	211	5	37
Warden	...	...	...	102	10	8
Elmley and Harty	...	...	...	-	16	10

(b) Practically all the houses in the Minster area are on main drainage but to many of the remainder the sewer is not easily available. Sewage from the area is collected at either the Scrapsgate or Sheerness East Disposal Works which consist of detritus tanks, settling tanks, filter beds and humus tank. The effluent from Sheerness East is discharged into an open ditch approximately one mile in length before the final discharge on to the mud flats at Scrapsgate. The effluent from the Scrapsgate works discharges into the same ditch at Scrapsgate.

Works of improvement are in progress at these Disposal Works. They include the abolition of the Sheerness East Disposal Works and the provision of a Permutit Compact Biological Treatment plant in lieu and the provision of an additional outfall at Scrapsgate.

(c) Sewage from the Leysdown and Warden Bay area and from Eastchurch is collected at Eastchurch Sewage Works (formerly R.A.F.) and is dealt with by settling tanks, filter beds and humus tank before the effluent is piped to Windmill Creek in the Swale. The disposal works at Eastchurch are considerably overloaded during the peak holiday season.

(d) The Council provide a free cesspool emptying service for a defined area of the Eastchurch Cliffs during the holiday season and this service contributed greatly to minimise the nuisance arising from cesspool drainage in this area.

It has been resolved that a cesspool emptying service to cover the whole of the Rural District be provided on request at a charge of 15/- per load.

(e) A joint sewage disposal scheme is still being considered by the three island authorities.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Windmill Creek site which is ideally situated away from the populated areas. Routine control measures are taken against flies and rodents.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

Inspections were made during the year to ensure that toilet facilities etc. were adequate for the increase in the number of pupils and classroom accommodation. The ratio at present is satisfactory.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway, Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown. The conveniences at Leysdown include washing facilities and slipper baths, and washing facilities are also provided at Scrapsgate.

6. DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS

(a) Six premises were disinfected after infectious disease.

(b) The following disinfestations were carried out during the year:-

Ants	...	...	...	...	3
Bugs	...	...	...	...	-
Fleas	...	...	...	...	3
Flies	...	...	...	...	3
Wasps	...	...	...	...	111
Bees	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous		...	...	...	19
Beetles	...	...	...	...	2
Silverfish	...	...	...	...	1

7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Treatment of ponds and ditches near houses was again carried out by the use of Malariol and no serious mosquito nuisance was reported during the year.

8. RODENT CONTROL

One full-time operator is employed and the following are details of surface infestations found and treated during the year:-

Number of complaints of infestation - Rats	...	...	90
Number of complaints of infestation - Mice	...	...	17
Treatments for rats	...	...	142
Treatments for mice	...	...	18
Number treated by local authority	...	...	160
Number of farm surveys	...	...	64
Number of farms treated	...	...	18
Number of survey visits	...	...	924
Number of treatment visits	...	...	810

9. CAMPING SITES

There are now 50 developed camping sites in the area with an estimated number of 5,500 movable dwellings. 12 of these are chalets sites and 38 are caravan or mixed sites.

The standards of camps continue to improve but lack of main drainage facilities in some areas continues to hamper progress. A weekly collection of refuse is made from all camps but this is completely inadequate.

10. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There is only one swimming bath in the area open to the general public and this is at the Warden Bay Holiday Camp. The bath is purified by a continuous process of filtration, chlorination and aeration and a regular check on chlorination is made by the Public Health Inspector. There are also three private swimming pools owned by holiday camps. Byelaws with respect to Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools which are not under the Council's management are in force.

11. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

12. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined:-

Milk	...	...	...	...	52
Sewer swabs	...	...	...	...	51
Faeces	...	...	...	...	44
Urine	...	...	...	...	14
Cockles	...	...	...	...	2

13. SHOPS ACT

The Public Health Department is responsible for the administration of this Act.

14. HOME SAFETY

The Kent County Council have delegated to the Sheppey Rural District Council their duties in relation to accidents in the home and these functions were carried out by the Health Committee through the Public Health Department.

In addition to poster displays throughout the district, competitions at Christmas in the Junior and Infants schools were again very successful thanks to the kind co-operation of the Head Teachers.

There were no deaths attributable to home accidents during the year.

15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

The removal of one old lady under the provisions of these Acts became necessary because she was living in insanitary conditions and was unable to devote to herself, and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

16. OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is an analysis of the 108 premises registered under this Act:-

Type of Premises	Number	Persons employed
Offices	26	82
Retail shops	51	142
Wholesale shops, warehouses	2	5
Catering establishments ...	27	115
Totals ...	106	344 } (132 males 212 females)

The inspection of registered premises is progressing but shortage of staff makes it impossible to give immediate comprehensive coverage.

As the rural district is an expanding area, many of the registered premises are new; consequently, facilities of a structural nature can be insisted upon when the plans of the premises are submitted to the Local Authority.

It must be appreciated that the nature of the area is predominantly seasonal and therefore a large number of premises are only in use during the busiest time of the year from a Health Department angle.

Generally speaking, premises are found to be satisfactory in most respects and it has not been necessary to institute any prosecutions.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1965 and the total since the war:-

	Minster	Leysdown	Warden	Eastchurch	Total
Council houses:-					
Completed in 1965 ...	22	-	-	-	22
Completed since the war:-					
Permanent	413	14	-	36	463
Temporary	26	-	-	6	32
Private enterprise:-					
Completed in 1965 ...	67	5	-	1	73
Completed since the war	733	45	20	15	813

2. One house was demolished in consequence of a Demolition Order, "Daneville", Sexburga Drive, Minster, and two houses were closed informally, Nos. 1 and 2 Rowett's Cottages, Eastchurch.

3. Improvement grants

Application for discretionary grants	...	...	...	11
Discretionary grants approved	...	...	...	8
Total grants	...	...	...	£1,454
Applications for standard grants	...	...	...	8
Standard grants approved	...	...	...	8
Total grants	...	...	...	£935

The standard grants included baths 4, wash hand basins 7, W.C.'s 4, hot water 8 and food stores 2.

4. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below:-

Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	-
Total number of persons displaced	...	...	...	-

Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	1
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	1
Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1)	...	...	...	2
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-
Houses closed under Sections 17(3) and 26	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	1

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	...	...	...	10
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice	...	...	...	4
Housing Act, 1957 - formal notice - Sections 9 and 16...	...	...	...	-
Houses made fit under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-

Rent Act, 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	-
Undertakings by Landlords	...	...	...	-
Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	-
No. of Certificates cancelled	...	...	...	-

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK SUPPLY

There are now 56 distributors of milk in this area, the majority of whom retail both pasteurised and sterilised milk.

2. ICE CREAM

76 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. One manufacturer is also registered.

3. MEAT INSPECTION

The following items of food were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered:-

Liver	...	...	...	14 lb.
Assorted tinned and				
packeted foods	...			29½ lb.

Condemned tinned food is buried on the refuse tip whilst butchers' meat is removed after staining with naphthalene green to the Glue & Chemical Works at Queenborough.

4. Ten complaints were received during the year in relation to alleged unsound foodstuffs. Nine of these were passed to the Food & Drugs authority. The tenth case was a complaint of a piece of glass in a portion of loose cheese. The cheese was of Australian origin and correspondence with the Australian Dairy Produce Board indicated that new equipment had been installed which would prevent the recurrence of this type of complaint.

4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 53 inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 or the Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959:-

	Premises	Inspections
Ice cream, manufacture and		
sale	76	30
Preserved food, manufacture	2	2
Dairies	1	21

Considerable improvements have been carried out at the one dairy situated in the area. 1965 however has given rise to a spate of complaints of alleged dirty milk bottles. Four successful prosecutions were taken. The final solution of this problem will probably be with the abolition of the milk bottle and the substitution by the carton.

(b) Other food premises by type of business are shown below:-

Butchers	....	...	...	...	...	10 plus 1 mobile
Fish, wet	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fish, fried	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cafes, and restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	25
Tea rooms	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakeries	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	16
General stores, including greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	65
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	7

81 inspections were made of these premises

All of the 138 premises comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and the 66 premises in the first seven categories comply with Regulation 19.

5. FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are six fish frying establishments and all are kept satisfactorily.

6. SHELLFISH

Metal notices displayed at eight sites between Barton's Point and Warden Point warn the public of the danger of eating cockles collected from the foreshore and notices of Port of London's Shellfish Regulations are also exhibited at these sites.

There is occasional collection of cockles from the Scrapsgate area for commercial use. These are treated at Leigh by approved processes in accordance with the Regulations of the Port of London Health Authority.

Sewer swabs were taken throughout the season in an endeavour to trace any possible Typhoid carrier but all swabs proved negative.

7. BAKEHOUSES

There is only one bakehouse in the District and this is operated satisfactorily.

8. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am indebted to Mr. A. Cyril Fox, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year:-

Beef Sausages	...	...	1	Non Brewed Condiment	...	1
Brandy	...	...	1	Orange Juice	...	1
Corned Beef	...	...	1	Oranges	...	1
Dried Sliced Onions	...	...	1	Pickled Walnuts	...	1
Evex	...	...	1	Potato Crisps	...	1
Gin	...	...	1	Rum...	...	1
Ginger Punch	...	...	1	Sanatogen Junior Vitamins	...	1
Ice Lollie	...	...	4	Sausage Meat	...	1
Meat Pie	...	...	3	Skinless Pork Sausages	...	1
Milk	...	...	20	Tizer	...	1
New Tastier Skinless	...	...	...	Vodka	...	1
Pork Sausages	....	...	1	Whisky	...	1

All the above samples were satisfactory with the exception of the following:-

Ice Lollies	Contained flakes of rust.	Retailer and manufacturers cautioned.
Meat Pie	Contained mould growth.	Retailer cautioned.
Corned Beef	Contained larvae of fly known as "Bluebottle".	Caution issued to the retail seller.
Orange Drink	Dirty bottle.	Dairy firm cautioned.
Non Brewed Condiment	Found to be low in acetic content.	Manufacturers were seen and advised.
Pork Sausages	Contained signs of mould growth	Cautions were issued to the manufacturers and the retailers.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961
in respect of the year 1965 for the
Rural District of Sheppey

PART I OF THE ACT:--

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power)	6	2	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power)	21	1	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	7	2	-	-
Totals	34	5	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Referred To By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied			
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient..	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective...	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-

3. Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	26	-	-	-	-	-
Other processes	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX A

Visits and Re-visits during 1965

Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bug infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Filthy conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	191
Smoke tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Factories and other premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Halls and places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	591
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	353
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,595
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Mosquito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Inspections in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspections re Demolition Orders and Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Inspections for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Re-housing interviews and investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infectious disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Meat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Restaurants and cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Food manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Smoke, dust and fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous visits and interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	249
Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Home Safety	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1965

Drainage cleanssd	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wall plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

